

✓ Injuries, Violence, and Safety

This section deals with personal safety and violence, and includes questions about physical fights, bullying, dating violence, weapons, vehicle safety, and suicide.

- **Physical Fighting:** Physical fighting often precedes fatal and nonfatal injuries.^{1, 2} During 1999, students ages 12-18 were victims of 880,000 nonfatal violent crimes at school.³ Nearly 60 percent of adolescents report at least one episode of dating violence,⁴ while 20 percent report they had experienced forced sex.⁵ Forced sex has been associated with poorer physical,⁶ and mental health among women.^{6,7}
- **Weapons and Fear:** During adolescence, homicide rates in the US increase substantially from 1.3 per 100,000 in youth aged 10 to 14 to 10.6 per 100,000 in youth aged 15 to 19.⁸ Homicide is the second leading cause of death among all youth aged 15 to 19.⁸ Firearms intensify violence and increase the likelihood of fatality in a conflict.⁹ In 2001, 83 percent of homicide victims 15 to 19 were killed with firearms.¹⁰

Bullying and being victimized by bullies have been increasingly recognized as health problems for children, because of their association with a range of adjustment problems, including poor psychological adjustment,^{11,12} poor academic achievement,¹² and violent behavior.¹³
- **Vehicle Safety - Safety Belts and Bicycle Helmets:** Motor vehicle crash injuries are the leading cause of death among youth aged 15 to 19 in the US.¹⁰ For instance, 23 out of 61 deaths (38 percent) among 15 to 24 year olds in Vermont in 2002 were due to motor vehicle crashes.¹⁴ Proper use of lap and shoulder belts reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passengers by 45 percent and risk of moderate to critical injury by 50 percent.¹⁵ Head injury is the leading cause of death in bicycle crashes.^{16,17} Bicycle helmets might prevent approximately 56 percent of bicycle-related deaths,¹⁸ 65-88 percent of bicycle-related brain injuries and 65 percent of serious injuries to the upper and middle regions of the face.¹⁹⁻²¹
- **Vehicle Safety - Driving Under the Influence** In 2003, alcohol use was associated with 40 percent of motor vehicle related fatalities nationwide and 41 percent in Vermont.²² Alcohol-related crashes also cause serious injury and permanent disability and ranks as the leading cause of spinal cord injury among adolescents and young adults.²³

✓ Injuries, Violence, and Safety (cont'd)

- **Suicide:** Suicide is the third leading cause of death among US youth aged 15 to 19¹⁰ and is the second leading cause of death among VT youth.¹⁰ The suicide rate for people aged 15 to 19 was 7.9 per 100,000 in 2001 down from a high of 10.9 per 100,000 in 1994.¹⁰ From 2000-2002, Vermont's suicide rate among 15 to 24 year olds was higher than the national average with a rate of 12.7 deaths per 100,000, compared to 10.0 deaths per 100,000 nationwide.¹⁰
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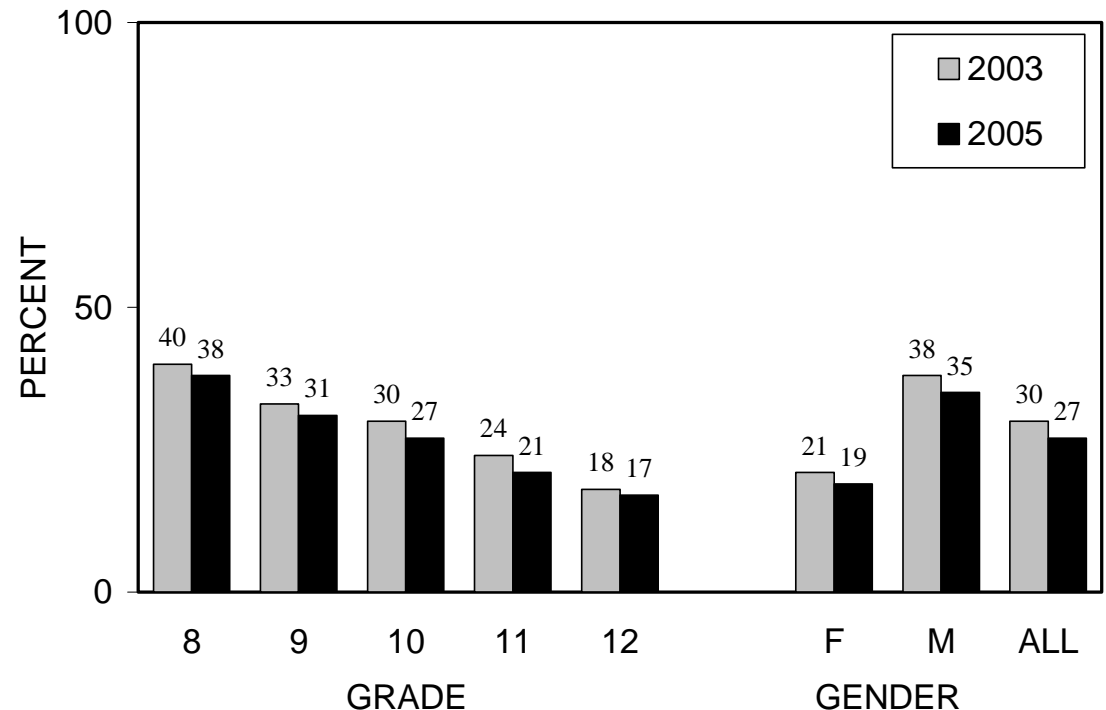
Related *Healthy Vermonters 2010* Goals:

- Increase the percentage of people who always use safety belts to at least 92 percent.
- Further reduce physical assaults by intimate partners to less than 3.6 per 1,000 people age 12 and older.
- Reduce alcohol-related motor vehicle deaths to less than 4 per 100,000.
- Reduce suicide attempts by adolescents to less than 1 percent.
- Reduce suicide deaths to less than 6 per 100,000 people.

■ Physical Fighting

- **Fighting is more common among young students.** In 2005, 8th graders were more than twice as likely as 12th graders to have been in a physical fight during the past year (38% vs 17%). This 8th and 12th grade difference was similar in 2003 (40% vs 18%).
- **Females fight less than males.** Male students were more likely than female students to have been in a physical fight (35% vs 19%). This male and female difference was similar in 2003 (38% vs 21%).

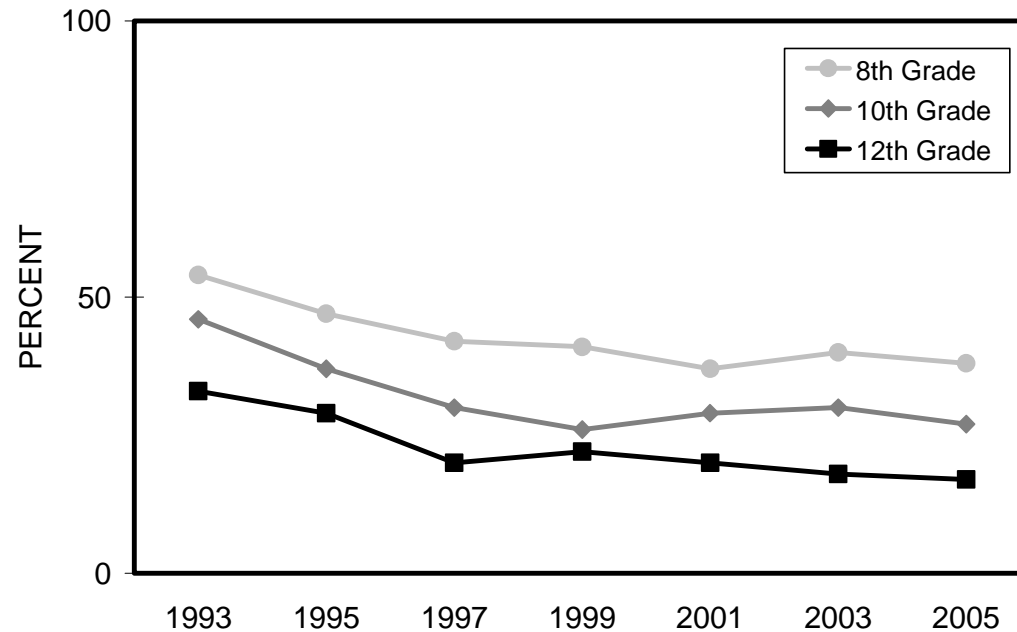
Percent of students who were in a physical fight during the past 12 months



■ Physical Fighting

- **Less fighting.** Physical fighting has decreased across all grades in Vermont since 1993. For example, fighting dropped from 54 to 38 percent among 8th graders, 46 to 27 percent among 10th graders, and 33 to 17 percent among 12th graders.

Physical Fighting in Vermont 1993 to 2005
Percent of students who were in a physical fight during the past 12 months



■ Physical Fighting

- Fewer females are in serious fights.** Female students were less likely than male students to be in a fight that resulted in an injury (2% vs 4%) and in a fight on school property (8% vs 19%). These figures are similar to the 2003 results.
- Fighting on school property is more common among younger students.** Eighth graders were over two times more likely than 12th graders to fight on school property (20% vs 8%). Overall, 14 percent of Vermont students fought on school property, similar to the 2003 overall rate (14%).

PHYSICAL FIGHTING	GRADE					GENDER		ALL	
	8	9	10	11	12	F	M	2005	2003
Percent of students who, during the past 12 months :									
Were in a physical fight and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse	3	3	3	2	3	2	4	3	3
Were in a physical fight <u>on school property</u>	20	15	14	10	8	8	19	14	14

■ Physical Fighting

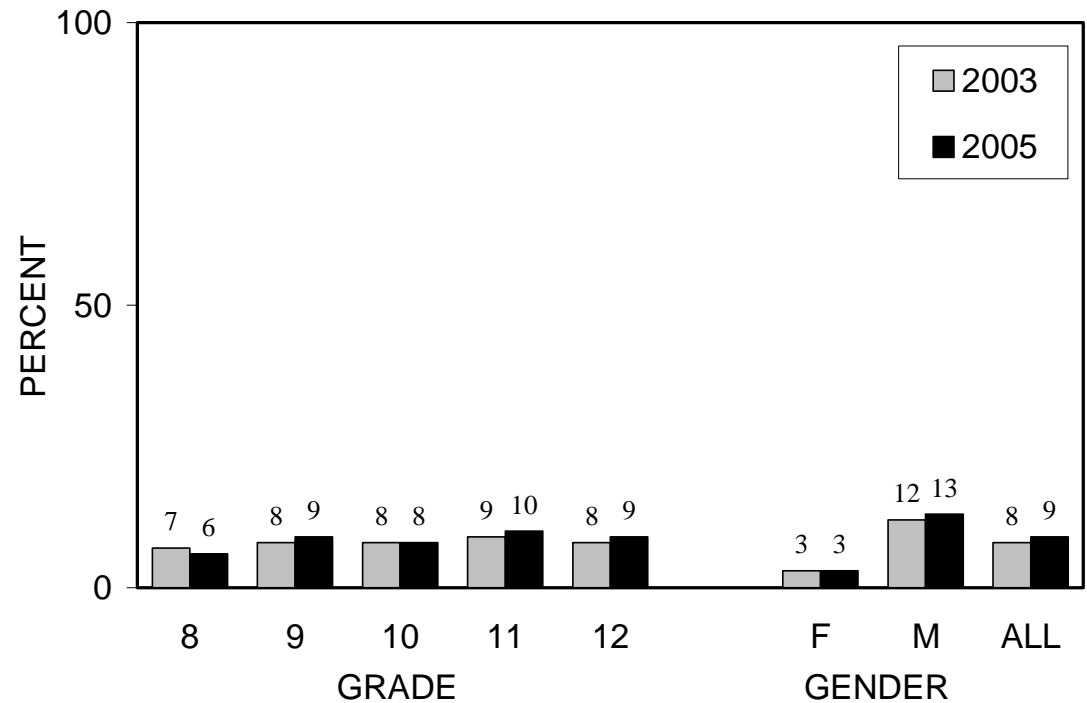
- Overall, 6 percent of students have been hit, slapped, or physically hurt by their boy/girlfriend during the past year. No significant difference was seen between female students and male students.
- One out of 10 students (10%) have been touched against their wishes sexually or forced to touch someone else sexually. Female students were three times more likely than male students to report being touched or forced to touch someone else (16% vs 5%)
- Overall, 5 percent of students have been forced to have sexual intercourse.

ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR	GRADE					GENDER		ALL	
	8	9	10	11	12	F	M	2005	2003
Percent of students who's boy/girlfriend hit, slapped or physically hurt them during the past 12 months	4	5	5	7	7	5	6	6	6
Percent of students who have ever been:									
Touched against their wishes or forced to touch someone else	8	10	12	12	11	16	5	10	9
Forced to have sexual intercourse	2	4	6	6	6	6	4	5	5

■ Weapons and Fear

- **Males carry weapons to school more than females.** Male students were four times more likely to carry a weapon on school property than female students (13% vs 3%). This pattern is similar to the 2003 results (12% vs 3%).

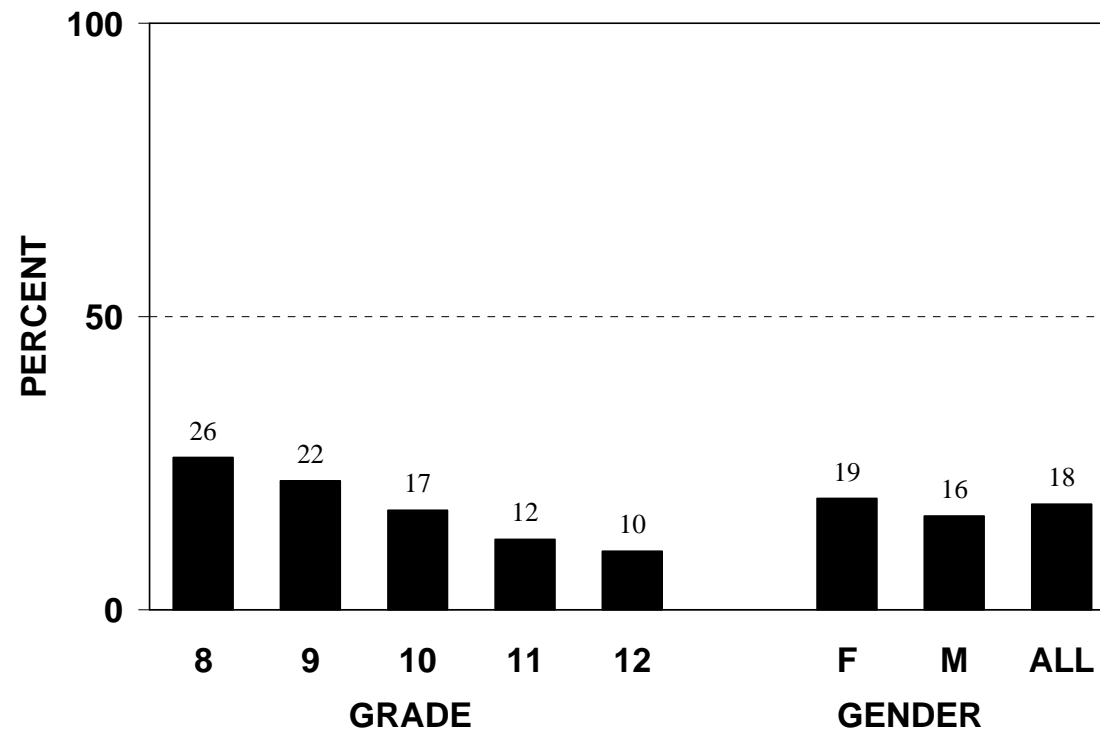
Percent of students who carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property during the past 30 days



■ Weapons and Fear

- **Younger students were more likely to have been bullied than older students.** Eighth graders were two and a half times more likely than 12th graders to have been a victim of bullying (26% vs 10%). Overall, 18% of students reported being bullied during the past 30 days.

Percent of students who were bullied* during the past 30 days

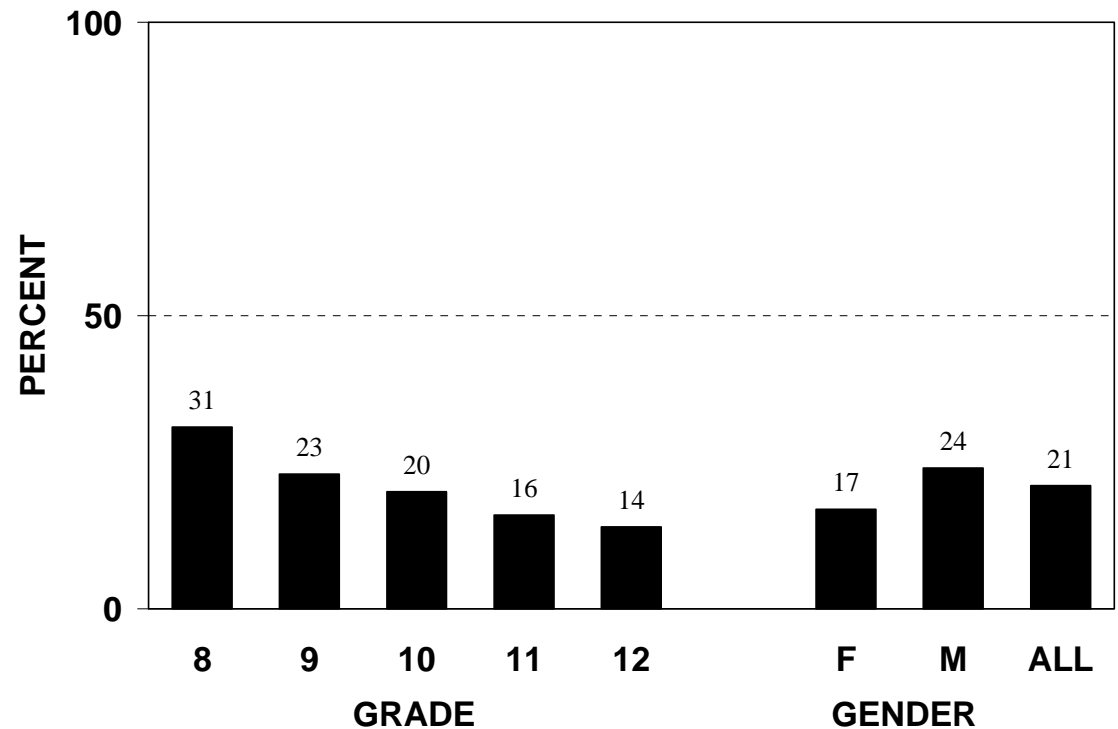


*For the purposes of the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, bullying was described as occurring when, on many occasions, a student or group of students say or do unpleasant things to another student to make fun of, tease, embarrass, or scare him/her; or purposefully exclude him/her. Bullying can occur before, during, or after the school day; on school property, a school bus or at a school-sponsored activity. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength and power argue or fight or when teasing is done in a friendly way.

■ Weapons and Fear

- **One out of five students have bullied someone.**
Younger students were more than twice as likely to bully someone than older students (31% vs 14%).

Percent of students who bullied* someone during the past 30 days



*For the purposes of the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, bullying was described as occurring when, on many occasions, a student or group of students say or do unpleasant things to another student to make fun of, tease, embarrass, or scare him/her; or purposefully exclude him/her. Bullying can occur before, during, or after the school day; on school property, a school bus or at a school-sponsored activity. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength and power argue or fight or when teasing is done in a friendly way.

■ Weapons and Fear

- **Overall, 5 percent of students did not go to school because they felt unsafe.** No difference was seen between female and male students.
- **Males are threatened with weapons at school more than females.** Male students were twice as likely as female students to have been threatened with a weapon on school property (8% vs 4%).
- **Younger students have their property stolen at school more than older students.** Overall, 26 percent of 8th grade students compared to 20 percent of 12th students reported that someone stole or deliberately damaged their property on school property.

SAFETY, WEAPONS, AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY									
	GRADE					GENDER		ALL	
	8	9	10	11	12	F	M	2005	2003
Percent of students who:									
Did not go to school because they felt unsafe during the past 30 days	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	4
Were threatened or injured with a weapon <u>on school property</u> during the past 12 months	6	7	7	6	4	4	8	6	7
Said that someone had stolen or deliberately damaged their property <u>on school property</u> during the past 12 months	26	26	23	23	20	22	25	24	25

■ Vehicle Safety - Safety Belts

- Safety belt use is up since 1993.** Overall, 83 percent of students reported always or almost always wearing their safety belt when riding in a car, compared to 84 percent in 2003, 79 percent in 2001, 77 percent in 1999, 75 percent in 1997, 72 percent in 1995, and 63 percent in 1993.
- Females wear safety belts more often than males.** Eighty-six percent of female students wore their safety belts when riding in a car, compared to 75 percent of male students. The difference between females and males was similar in 2003 (83% vs 75%).

SAFETY BELT USE	GRADE					GENDER		ALL	
	8	9	10	11	12	F	M	2005	2003
Percent of students who wear a safety belt when riding in a car driven by someone else									
Always or almost always	84	81	84	83	83	86	80	83	84
Sometimes	9	11	8	8	8	8	10	9	9
Never or rarely	6	8	8	9	9	5	11	8	7

■ Vehicle Safety - Safety Belts

- **More than eight out of 10 of students buckle up when driving.** Overall, 86 percent of students reported always or almost always wearing their safety belt when driving a car.
- **Females buckle up more often than males.** Nine out of 10 (92%) female students always or almost always wore their safety belt when driving a car, compared to 82 percent of male students. This difference was similar in 2003 (93% vs 84%).

SAFETY BELT USE	GRADE					GENDER		ALL	
	8	9	10	11	12	F	M	2005	2003
Percent of students who wear a safety belt when <i>driving a car</i>									
Always or almost always	71	82	92	88	85	92	82	86	88
Sometimes	8	7	3	5	6	4	7	5	5
Never or rarely	21	11	4	7	9	5	12	9	7

■ Vehicle Safety - Bicycle Helmets

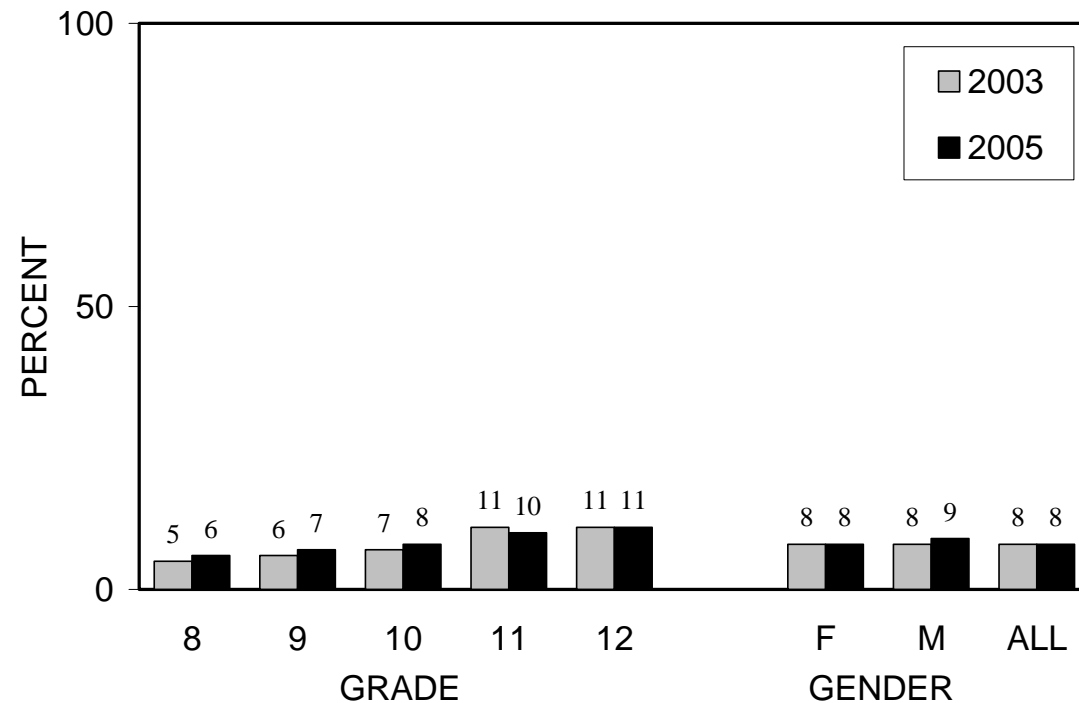
- **Bicycle helmet use is up since 1993.** Overall, 33 percent of students always or almost always wore helmets when riding bicycles, compared to 11 percent in 1993.

BICYCLE HELMET USE	GRADE					GENDER		ALL	
	8	9	10	11	12	F	M	2005	2003
Frequency of helmet use (in percents) among students who rode a bicycle in the past 12 months									
Always or almost always	36	31	30	32	38	36	31	33	38
Sometimes	16	14	12	11	9	14	12	13	12
Never or rarely	47	54	58	58	54	50	57	54	50

■ Vehicle Safety - Crashes

- Overall, 8 percent of students were injured in a car crash during the past year.
- Older students are more likely than younger students to have been injured in a car crash. Twelfth graders were almost twice as likely as 8th graders to be injured in a car crash during the past year (11% vs 6%).

Percent of students who were injured in a car or other vehicle crash during the past 12 months



■ Vehicle Safety - Crashes

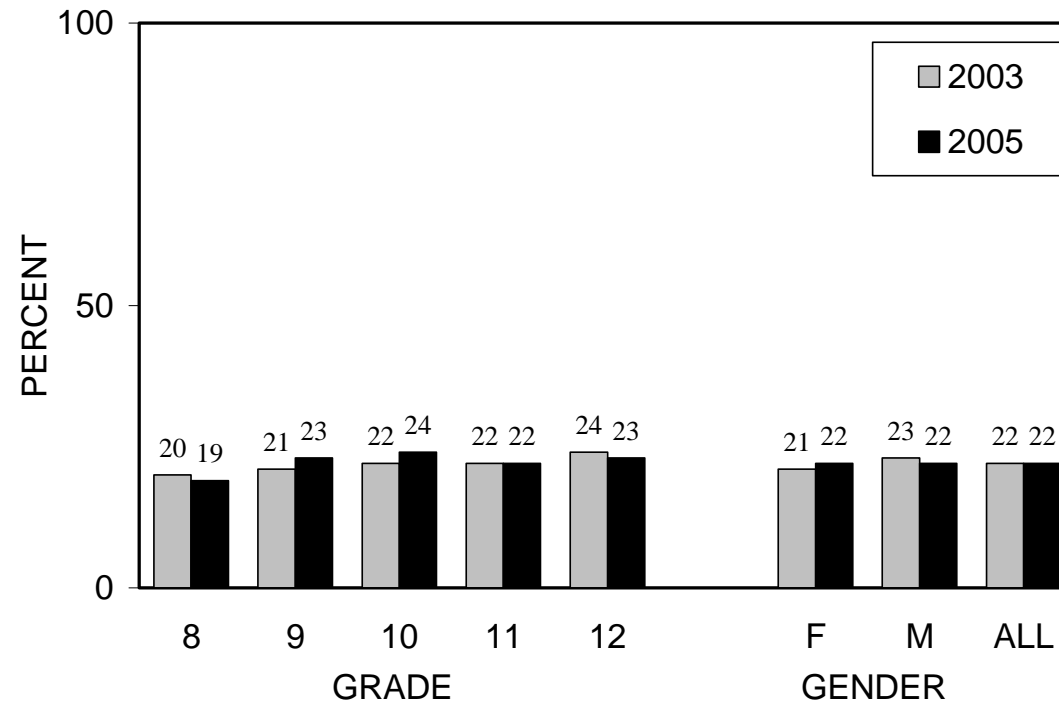
- **Almost half of drivers involved in car crashes are young.** Forty-four percent of those crashes where students were injured, the driver was 17 years old or younger.
- **More males than females who are injured in a car crash are not wearing their safety belt at the time of the crash.** Forty-two percent of male students, compared to 29 percent of female students were not wearing their safety belt when injured in a car crash.

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES									
	GRADE					GENDER		ALL	
	8	9	10	11	12	F	M	2005	2003
Percent of students who were injured in a crash during the past 12 months, and:									
The driver was 17 years old or younger	34	33	37	59	47	43	44	44	44
They were driving	27	19	15	34	53	28	34	32	33
They were not wearing their safety belt	41	34	40	31	33	29	42	36	30

■ Vehicle Safety - Driving Under the Influence

- **Riding with drinking drivers has decreased since 1995.**
Twenty-two percent of students reported riding with a drinking driver during the past 30 days, compared to the same in 2003, 24 percent in 2001, 26 percent in 1999, 31 percent in 1997, and 37 percent of students in 1995.

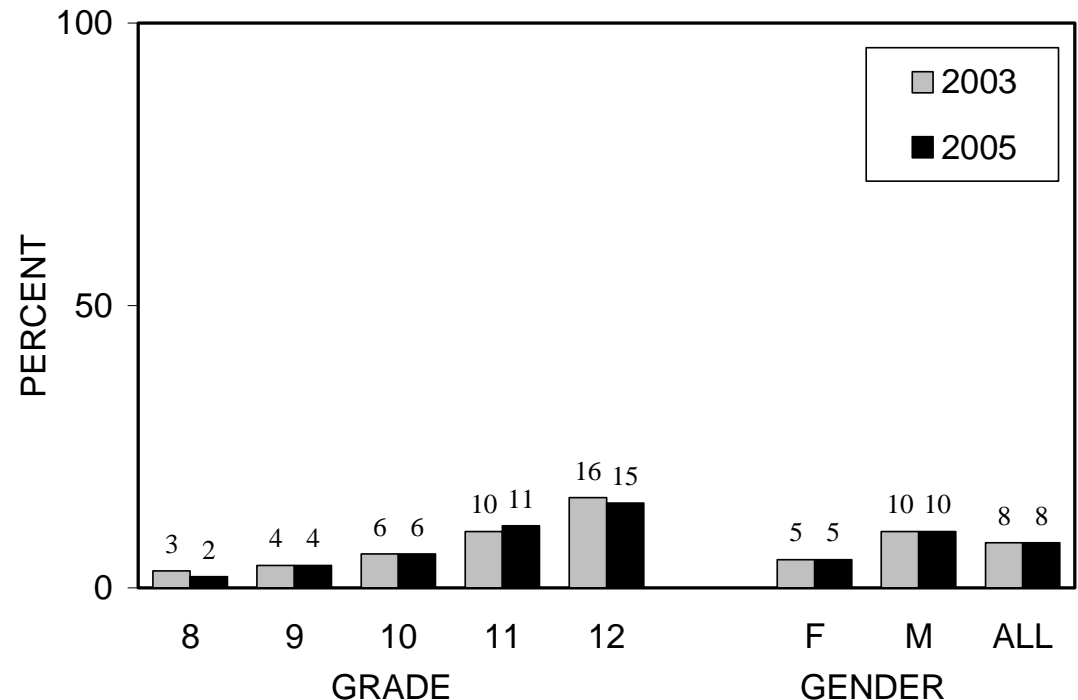
Percent of students who during the past 30 days rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol



■ Vehicle Safety - Driving Under the Influence

- **Fewer females drink and drive than males.** Female students were half as likely as male students to drive a car after drinking alcohol (5% vs 10%). This difference is similar to results in 2003 (5% vs 10%).
- **Older students drink and drive more than younger students.** Twelfth graders were two and half times more likely than 10th graders to drive when they had been drinking alcohol (15% vs 6%). This difference is similar to results in 2003 (16% vs 6%).

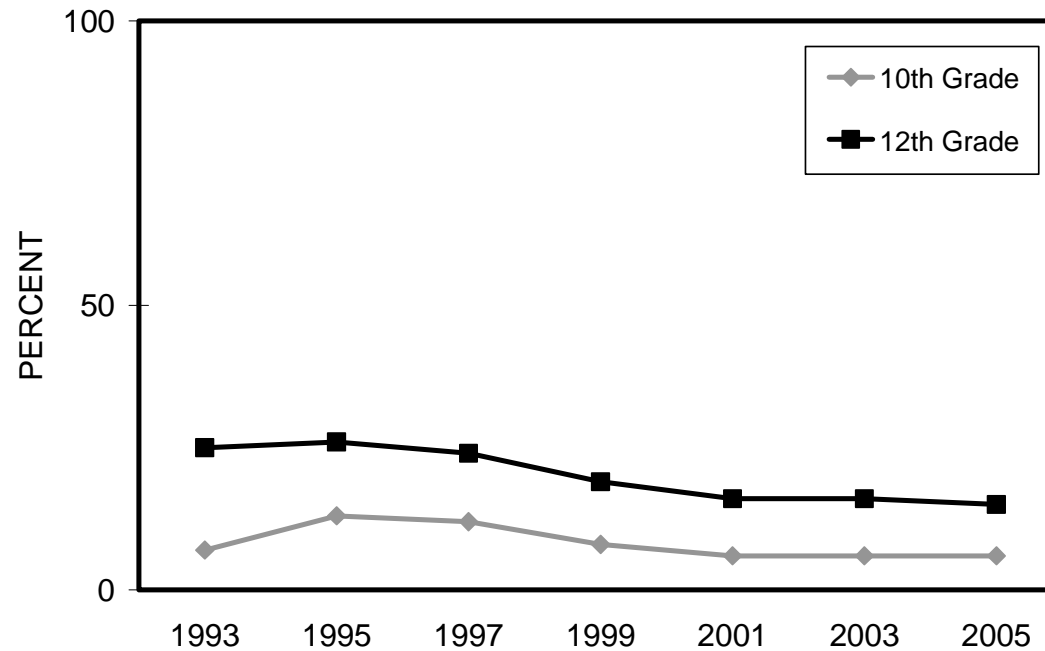
Percent of students who during the past 30 days drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol



■ Vehicle Safety - Driving Under the Influence

- **Drinking and driving has decreased since 1995.**
Among 12th graders, drinking and driving decreased from 26 percent in 1995 to 15 percent in 2005. This pattern was similar among 10th grade drivers (13% vs 6%).

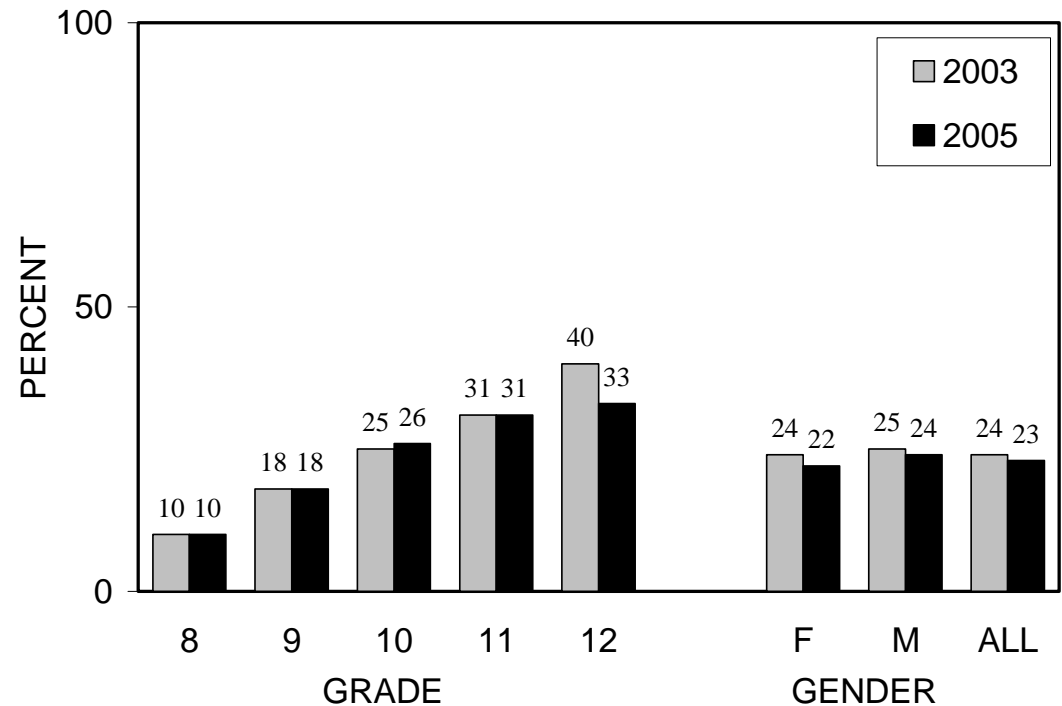
Drinking and Driving 1993 to 2005
Percent of students who during the past 30 days drove a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol



■ Vehicle Safety - Driving Under the Influence

- Approximately one-quarter (23%) of students have ridden with someone who was smoking marijuana.
- Older students ride with someone who has been smoking marijuana more than younger students. Twelfth graders were over three times more likely than 8th graders to have ridden in a car driven by someone smoking marijuana (33% vs 10%).

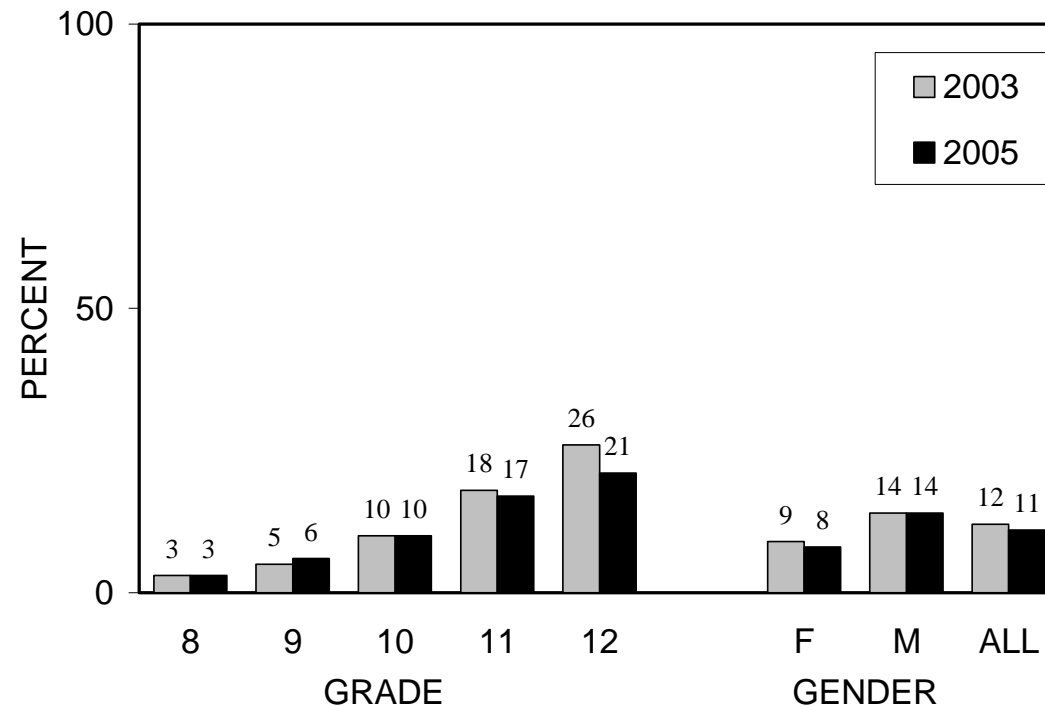
Percent of students who during the past 30 days rode in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been smoking marijuana



■ Vehicle Safety - Driving Under the Influence

- **Fewer female students drive when they have been smoking marijuana than male students.** Females were less likely than males to report driving when they had been smoking marijuana (8% vs 14%). This difference was similar in 2003 (9% vs 14%).
- **Older students drive when they have been smoking marijuana more than younger students.** Twelfth graders were over two times more likely than 10th graders to drive when they had been smoking marijuana (21% vs 10%).

Percent of students who during the past 30 days drove a car or other vehicle when they had been smoking marijuana



■ Suicide

- Suicide plans are down since 1995.** Overall, 11 percent of students made a suicide plan during the past 12 months, compared to 13 percent in 2003 and 2001, 16 percent in 1999, 18 percent in 1997, and 22 percent in 1995.
- More females than males consider suicide.** Female students were more likely than male students to make a suicide plan (15% vs 8%) and actually attempt suicide (9% vs 4%). These differences between females and males were similar to results from 2003.

SUICIDE	GRADE					GENDER		ALL	
	8	9	10	11	12	F	M	2005	2003
Percent of students who during the past 12 months:									
Felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for at least 2 weeks that they stopped doing some usual activities	20	22	22	22	23	29	15	22	23
Made a plan about how to attempt suicide	11	12	11	11	11	15	8	11	13
Actually attempted suicide	6	7	6	6	5	9	4	6	7
Attempted suicide and required medical treatment	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	2

